Subject No. 183.

Coffee Stealing Prevention Act.

Summary of discussion.—Mr. Graham Anderson referred in terms of approval to the order issued in regard to the Coffee Stealing Prevention Act in Government Proceedings No. 13309-12—G. 2965, dated 31st January 1893, drawing the attention of the Police to the duties devolving on them under the Act, and urged the necessity for an instruction that the orders shall be observed from the very commencement of the crop season. Last year the measures adopted were taken too late to be serviceable. The season may be taken to commence from the beginning of October. Mr. Digby T. Brett of the North Mysore Planters' Association also spoke to the same effect.

Dewan's reply.—Deputy Commissioners of Kadur and Hassan Districts will take note of this and take action accordingly.

Subject No. 184.

Assessment on Cardamom lands.

Summary of discussion.—Mr. Graham Anderson regretted that this subject had not been finally disposed of by Government. The present settlement pressed very heavily and it was necessary that there should be a revision of the assessment on the unculturable portions of extensive holdings held for cardamom cultivation. It would be a great convenience to have this revision effected before the ensuing collection season. The unculturable portions are so intimately intermingled with the better parts that they cannot be eliminated or resigned. Last year the Dewan made enquiries as to the feasibility of separately demarcating unculturable portions and classing them as grass land, but Mr. Graham Anderson pointedly deprecated such a solution of the difficulty on the ground that the unculturable portions could not be separately demarcated in blocks and if only grass rights were accorded on such portions, the owner would not be able to regulate the Forest for the amelioration of the prospects of the planted portions with which they were intermingled. Mr. Graham Anderson went on to say that the subject must inevitably be treated as a whole and any remedy that is introduced would represent a compensating allowance on the whole block or holding on account of the large portion of barren rocky ridges, precipitous slopes, grass and scrub included within the original boundaries. The whole subject had been fully examined and proposals relative to revision of assessment had been submitted by the Survey and Revenue Settlement Department, the officers of which have the most accurate knowledge of the peculiar nature of the requirements of the situation and who have made in several cases adequate and most equitable allowances of the kind above referred to. The Darbar has only to accord sanction to the Survey and Settlement Superintendent to equitably revise the assessment on large areas in connection with which self-evident hardship at present exists.